

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A network terminal apparatus connected to other network terminal apparatuses via a network, the network terminal apparatus comprising:

a storing unit that stores setting
10 information of the network terminal apparatus;

an acquiring unit that transmits an acquisition request for acquiring setting information to one of the other network terminal apparatuses, receives the setting information from the one of the
15 other network terminal apparatuses;

a setting unit that sets the received setting information to the network terminal apparatus and stores the received setting information in the storing unit; and

20 a transmitting unit that, in response to receipt of an acquisition request for the setting information stored in the storing unit from another one of the other network terminal apparatuses, retrieves the setting information from the storing
25 unit, and transmits the retrieved setting information

to the other one of the other network terminal
apparatuses.

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2. The network terminal apparatus as
claimed in claim 1,

wherein

10 the acquiring unit transmits an acquisition
request for acquiring a designated item of the
setting information, and receives the designated item
of the setting information.

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3. The network terminal apparatus as
claimed in claim 1,

20 wherein

the network terminal apparatus acquires the
setting information from a setting information
management server provided in the network, that
manages the setting information of the network
25 terminal apparatuses.

4. The network terminal apparatus as
claimed in claim 3,

wherein

5 the network terminal apparatus acquires the
setting information from the setting information
management server at predetermined intervals.

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5. The network terminal apparatus, further
comprising:

15 a transforming unit that, if format of the
received setting information does not match format of
the network terminal apparatus, transforms the
received setting information into format-adjusted
setting information;

wherein

20 the setting unit sets the format-adjusted
setting information to the network terminal apparatus
and stores the format-adjusted setting information in
the storing unit.

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6. The network terminal apparatus as
claimed in claim 5,

wherein

the transforming unit transforms the
5 received setting information based on stylesheet that
defines an attribute of each element of the setting
information.

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7. A network terminal apparatus,
comprising:

means for transmitting a request for
15 acquiring setting information to another network
terminal apparatus connected via a network;

means for receiving the setting information
from the other requested network terminal apparatus;

means for setting the received setting
20 information to the network terminal apparatus;

means for storing setting information that
store the received setting information;

means for receiving a request for acquiring
setting information from another network terminal
25 apparatus connected via the network; and

means for transmitting the setting
information to the other requesting network terminal
apparatus.

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8. The network terminal apparatus as
claimed in claim 7,

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wherein

the means for transmitting a request for
acquiring setting information transmits a request for
acquiring only items designated by a user.

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9. The network terminal apparatus as
claimed in claim 7,

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wherein

a setting information management server is
provided in the network; and

the setting information is acquired from
the setting information management server.

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10. The network terminal apparatus as
claimed in claim 9,

wherein

the network terminal apparatus acquires the
5 setting information from the setting information
management server at predetermined intervals.

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11. The network terminal apparatus as
claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

means for transforming, if format of the
received setting information does not match format of
15 the network terminal apparatus, the received setting
information into format-adjusted setting information;

wherein

the means for setting the received setting
information sets the format-adjusted setting
20 information to the network terminal apparatus; and

the means for storing setting information
stores the format-adjusted setting information
therein.

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12. The network terminal apparatus as
claimed in claim 11,

wherein

the means for transforming the received
5 setting information transforms the received setting
information based on stylesheet that defines an
attribute of each element of the setting information.

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13. A method of sharing setting
information between a network terminal apparatus and
another network terminal apparatus connected via a
15 network, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a request for acquiring
setting information to the other network terminal
apparatus;

receiving the setting information from the
20 other requested network terminal apparatus;

setting the received setting information to
the network terminal apparatus;

storing the received setting information in
the network terminal apparatus;

25 receiving a request for acquiring setting

information from another network terminal apparatus;
and

transmitting the setting information to the
other requesting network terminal apparatus.

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14. A network system, comprising:
10 a first network terminal apparatus; and
a second network terminal apparatus
connected to the first network terminal apparatus via
a network, the second network terminal apparatus
storing setting information;

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wherein

the first network terminal apparatus
transmits an acquisition request to the second
network terminal apparatus, receives the setting
information from the second network terminal
20 apparatus, sets the setting information to the first
network terminal apparatus, and stores the setting
information in the first network terminal apparatus;
and

the second network terminal apparatus
25 transmits the setting information stored therein to

the first network terminal apparatus in response to receipt of the acquisition request from the first network terminal apparatus.